



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release

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Abele Appoints New Child Enforcement Head, Budget Chiefs ***County Financial Analysts, Former State Senator Named to Top Posts***

MILWAUKEE – Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele on Friday appointed attorney and former state senator Jim Sullivan as the county's child support director and named veteran county financial administrators Pamela Bryant as interim budget director and Cynthia ("CJ") Pahl as deputy budget director.

Sullivan will head the County Department of Child Enforcement, which handles about 134,000 cases a year involving the enforcement of child-support obligations, establishing paternity and other related services.

"The Department of Child Enforcement has an especially critical dependence on state funding and brings in \$150 million a year, dramatically reducing the draw on taxpayer-supported social services," Abele said. "It is more important than ever that this department is headed by a leader like Jim Sullivan who has a strong knowledge of the state funding system."

Abele said that the recently approved state budget dealt a serious blow to the county's child enforcement efforts. State and federal governmental enforcement spending in Wisconsin will drop \$25 million in the next two years as a result of the state budget, dramatically reducing collections.

Sullivan said, "This program helps protect the integrity of the family unit and holds parents accountable instead of making taxpayers pay for their irresponsibility. I look forward to using my background as an attorney and experience working with leaders at all levels government to help maximize the amount of support we recover for the benefit of children and families in Milwaukee County."

Sullivan served in the Wisconsin Senate representing 160,000 residents of Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties from 2007 to 2011. He was chairman of the Committee on Banking, Military Affairs, Biotechnology and Financial Institutions; co-chair of the Joint Committee on Audit; and vice chair of the Committee on Judiciary and Corrections. He served as a Wauwatosa alderman from 2000 to 2007.

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A 2001 Marquette University Law School graduate, Sullivan has been in private practice since 2003. He often serves as a guardian ad litem in protective placement and child abuse cases, and practices regularly in children's court. Sullivan served in the U.S. Navy Reserve from 1998 to 2006 and assisted the command Judge Advocate General officer on mobilization readiness and legal issues.

Abele said that Bryant and Pahl will be invaluable in working with his administration and the County Board in developing the 2012 county budget.

"I already have been impressed with their skill and commitment in helping to reach the many savings we have made so far and in starting to craft what will be a no-tax-increase, no-deficit budget," Abele said. "I look forward to working with them both in their new roles."

Bryant, who Abele is naming as the interim fiscal and budget administrator, has worked in the county's Department of Administrative Service's fiscal affairs division for 16 years, including the last 13 as its capital finance manager.

Pahl, the new assistant fiscal and budget administrator, has been serving in that position on an interim basis since April. Before that, she was the financial division manager for the Department of Child Enforcement and a capital finance analyst for the Department of Administrative Service's fiscal affairs division.

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